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Collins Heads State Planning Board

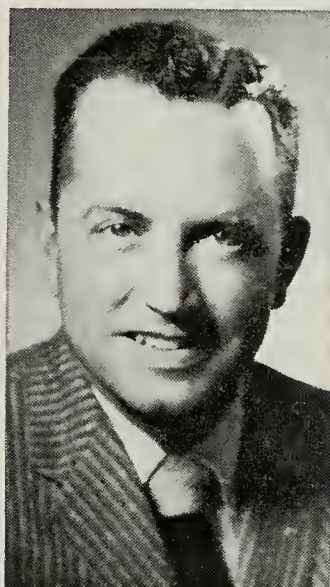
Thomas J. Collins of Missoula was recently appointed director of the State Planning Board. In assuming the position, Collins reiterated the objectives and purposes of this agency for the economic and social development of Montana.

"To become effective," he stated, "we must be an active organization with an ambitious program for assisting existing business and industry to expand and prosper. It is imperative that we aggressively search for specific new industries which indicate good prospects for success and promote their location in Montana."

"We will not neglect the important function of city-county planning and hope to initiate a more cooperative relationship with the various agencies engaged in planning and development activities."

At a recent meeting of the Planning Board specific development projects were determined and a vigorous program designed for improvement and expansion in the lumber industry, livestock, mining, and manufacturing.

"We hope to be able to give favorable reports from time to time in **Industrial Horizons** regarding the success of our efforts," the new director said.



Out-of-State Industries Studied . . .

Everett Darlinton, assistant director of the Planning Board, and R. C. Setterstrom, chairman of the Advisory Council, recently completed a trip to Portland, Oregon, and southern Idaho.

The main purpose of the trip was to attend a meeting of the Forest Products Research Society which was held in Portland, February 6 and 7. At this meeting new products and techniques in the wood products field (the fastest growing segment of Montana's economy) were discussed and analyzed. The discussions included such items as particle board, hardboard, plywood, glues, and high-speed dryers.

While in the Portland area they visited a large electronics firm, the world's largest specialty paper mill, several sawmills, and a vacation trailer manufacturer. These firms are making products which are either already being manufactured in Montana or which may become feasible to manufacture within the state.

On returning from Portland, the men traveled to Boise, Ida., where they were met by Orland Mayer, industrial development engineer for the Idaho Power Co., who introduced them to various concerns in southern Idaho. While in the Boise area they met with Miss Louise Shadduck, secretary of the Idaho Department of Commerce and Development, and discussed mutual industrial development problems in Montana and Idaho. They also visited a well-known mobile home (trailer) manufacturer and noted the efficiency of the company's assembly line type of production. Inasmuch as six mobile home manufacturers now operate in Boise, satellite plants which manufacture specialized trailer parts for these companies have also come out of Boise.

In the Burley, Ida., area the men visited a small meat packing plant, two cattle feed lots, and several large potato processing plants. They were impressed by the size and complexity of the potato processing plants and by the scientific staff and facilities that must be employed to carry on research to continually improve products such as french fries, powdered potatoes, flakes, etc., as well as to develop entirely new products from the potatoes. Each of the six plants in the Burley area processes between 5,000 and 10,000 one-hundred pound bags of potatoes every 24 hours throughout most of the year.

We hope it will prove feasible for Montana to support some of the above industries which we do not have, as well as to diversify products of those now operating in the state.

New Montana Industry Will Aid State Farms

A group of about 70 professional and business men, ranchers, and dryland wheat farmers recently organized a new concern to produce and market a soil builder for farms in Montana and surrounding states.

Plants at Red Lodge and Cody

Under the name of Multi-Mineral Products Corp., the concern has purchased a high grade gypsum sulphur deposit at Cody, Wyo., and two mines at Red Lodge. One mine has a deposit of high grade calcium carbonate, the other has a deposit of Dolomitic limestone, composed of calcium and magnesium. Plants have been erected at Cody and Red Lodge and products are already being applied on many fields in southern Montana.

Gypsum sulphur is a plant food, also used to neutralize alkaline soils. Calcium carbonate is a soil conditioner and plant food. Dolomitic limestone is also a valuable plant food, used in huge amounts in the United States. Montana wheatlands during the past 50 years have lost much of their plant foods due to successive plantings and additives are now required.

Soils Lack Sulphur, Calcium, Magnesium

Multi-Mineral Products Corp. engaged the Agricultural Research Foundation of Renton, Wash., a soils analysis organization, founded by Dr. Lee Van Derlinden. As a soil scientist, Dr. Van Derlinden developed new plant growth techniques in various sections of the United States, and was brought into Montana by Multi-

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Techniques for Successful State Development Agencies Studied

The following is a reprint of an article which appeared in ECONOMIC DIGEST, a publication of the South Dakota Industrial Development Agency.

What type of action contributes toward a successful program for state planning and development agencies? What techniques have proven to be most productive?

In an attempt to answer these and other questions, the Committee for Economic Development (CED) had Donald Gilmore, regional economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, prepare a comprehensive survey on area development activities in the United States.

Results of this survey show about 14,000 organizations engaged in some form of local, state, or regional economic development activity in 1957. Two-thirds were privately sponsored, with the remainder being public. Major conclusions drawn from questionnaires sent to state development agencies were as follows:

Expenditure of state planning and development agencies totaled about \$24.6 million in 1957. This was nearly three times the amount spent by them in 1950. Ranging from 5 employees in Montana to 329 in New York, the total employment of all agencies numbered 1,637. The major objectives of most state planning and development agencies were industrial development, tourist trade, and urban renewal, all of which accounted for over 80 per cent of the expenditures.

Cooperation from Communities Important

Among the reasons for success mentioned were assistance provided to local development groups and cooperation obtained from them, and from such private organizations as utilities, railroads and real estate agencies. Several states had guided local groups in evaluating the potentials of their areas, and in forming local industrial development committees and corporations.

Effective promotion as a reason for success was cited by only five state planning and development agencies. Fifteen listed community development efforts as a reason, while 10 others singled out research programs as reasons for success. The report summarized, "Comparison of these findings with their expenditure patterns indicated that most state planning and development agencies are not spending enough on research and community development efforts, and raise a question about the value of large expenditures for advertising and other types of promotion."

Most Effective Methods

Asked as to what techniques proved most effective, the state agencies listed community efforts, and state and local economic research programs in preference

to advertising. The survey indicated that direct mail efforts were more effective than advertising in newspapers and magazines.

Of local efforts toward economic growth, the planning and zoning activities of local governments were said to be the most important. Other activities contributing to economic growth by local governments were extension of municipal services and facilities, organizing local industrial development commissions, urban renewal efforts, and issuing bonds for construction of industrial buildings.

Other than inadequacy of funds or personnel, lack of interest and support by general public, and by business leaders in particular, was cited as the most prominent drawback to success.

Auto Aid . . .

Acid corrosion on automobile batteries that has plagued motorists since the beginning of the automobile age is now to become a thing of the past. That is the promise held forth by a new product, NO-KROD, being introduced by three men of the Baker area.

The three are all employees of the Union Texas Natural Gas Corp. in the refinery north of Baker. Gene Fisher, superintendent, and Jim Cawley, chief engineer at the plant, have each been with the company for some eight years, having worked their way to their present positions from the very bottom of the ladder. Bill Simmons, of the maintenance department, has been with the plant since last spring. He is also pastor of the Lakeview Baptist Church of Baker. To make NO-KROD even more of a home product for this area, the emblem on the label of the attractive 2 oz. bottle was drawn by Elizabeth Jones of Miles City.

NO-KROD is a heavy liquid that is coated over the top of the battery and cable ends. It is guaranteed to give permanent, positive prevention of corrosion on the treated battery. The producers of NO-KROD say that it is not a petroleum product, but was born of the great need which they have seen through the years for just such a product. The great difference which they claim for their discovery from any other such product on the market is that where the others only slow or retard such corrosion, theirs completely prevents it.

It is being offered both locally and nationally on a money-back guarantee. The 2 oz. bottle is enough to treat two batteries.

In the News . . .

Montana State College Extension Service reports that pure "maple" syrup is being produced in New Mexico from box elder trees. The syrup, said to be every bit as good as "Made in Vermont," could open up a new industry in Montana.

Montana State Bureau of Mines and Geology is making a mineral resources survey in northwest Montana. Great Northern Railway and Pacific Power & Light are the sponsors.

Science Magazine, in a recent article "Botanical Prospecting for Ore Deposits," explored the **geobotany method of prospecting for ores** by studying surface plant life. Thirty-two plants—called universal indicators—have proven to be fairly reliable in indicating ore deposits. Pinks and some mustards grow near zinc. Copper indicators are mainly pinks, mosses, and mints. Poison vetch can be found growing in radioactive areas and selenium indicators have been used to locate uranium.

Montana Business Council, a non-profit corporation, has been formed in Butte to improve the general business interests of the state.

Glasgow Air Force Base is expected to have a personnel-dependent population of 8 to 9,000 by mid-summer, up from 4,100 in December of 1960. Arrival of the B-52 jet bomber wing is the reason for the jump.

Great Falls expects nearly 4,500 visitors at 22 conventions booked for 1961.

Another new feedlot is in operation at the Duane Sammons ranch north of Conrad. The Sammons are trying a rolled barley feed, along with vitamin A, protein, and molasses. Montana marketing is in Great Falls and Havre with the surplus going to the west coast.

The **Monthly Review** of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis reports that **Montana had 41,000 cattle and calves on feed** as of October 1, 1960. The figure was 27,000 in 1959. Percentage change: PLUS 52%!

A company—Branson Instruments—manufacturers ultrasonic detectors which are used to find flaws in metals and plastics. Now Branson and a professor of animal husbandry, Dr. James R. Stoffer of Cornell, say the detector can judge the value of live cattle more accurately than human intuition. The instrument shoots ultrasonic waves into the steer's back and when the waves hit a boundary between fat and lean, they bounce back. The signals can then be viewed on a cathode ray screen.

Mink Farm. Started as Hobby. Becomes Big Business

Montana has 63 licensed mink farms. One of the largest operations in the state is that of Maurice F. Stockner at Missoula. Begun as a hobby in 1928 with a single pair of mink, Stockner now has over 8,000.

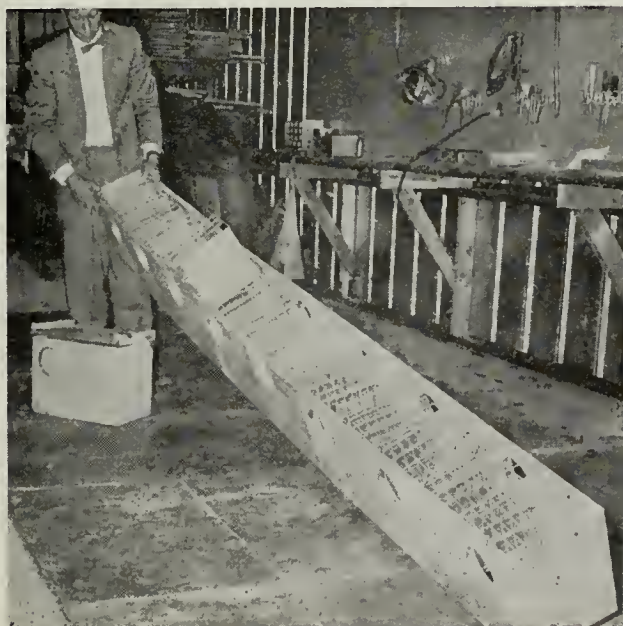
Until about five years ago, his farm was located in the foothills on the outskirts of Missoula. However, the growth of the city extended out to his farm and the area became no longer favorable for mink raising. As a consequence, he purchased a 30-acre farm on the other side of the city.

Old farm buildings were torn down and burned so there would be nothing left on the place which might prove detrimental to the mink. New material was used throughout in building and equipping the new ranch and sixteen 200-foot aluminum roofed sheds were constructed. Breeder sheds are left open on the sides so they get the sun and the pelting sheds have aluminum siding for protection.

At some distance from the sheds is the feed building where all of the feed is prepared. It has freezer storage space for 100 tons of the frozen fish and whale



Maurice Stockner with one of his prize-winning minks



Nesting pens designed by Stockner which allow females to build their own nests from straw in removable trough above pens.

which are the basic ingredients fed. The complete ration is ground and mixed in the feed house. At no time is the feed touched by human hands and a steam cleaning system in the feed house insures complete sanitation at all times.

Mr. Stockner recalls that the first mink pelts he sold brought a top price of \$3. In 1936 the coronation in England created a heavy demand for mink and he averaged \$28 a skin that year.

Through careful application of practical genetics, he has built up some very desirable mutant strains. Some of the mutations have been very popular as breeding stock, much sought after by other mink ranchers.

Shown at Brussels Fair

His pelts were among those chosen for the mink garments displayed by the U. S. at the 1958 World's Fair in Brussels. He has a roomful of trophies, but now prefers to judge rather than show.

He is director and one of the organizers of the Northwest Fur Breeders Co-op which purchases the feed requirements for its membership, and he is on the executive committee of the National Board of Fur Farm Organizations. **U. S. Fur Rancher** featured his farm in an article in their August, 1959, issue.

NEW MONTANA INDUSTRY WILL AID STATE FARMS

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Mineral Products Corp. to make a study of Montana farm lands. He reports that several hundred studies disclose that in about 75 per cent of lands studied soils are depleted completely of sulphur and very often in calcium and/or magnesium.

Dr. Van Derlinden headed the phosphate division of the Anaconda Company between 1922 and 1937 and developed the need and use for treble superphosphate in the West. He states that gypsum sulphur will help wheat farmers bring back original crop production ability. It does not compete with or eliminate the need for commercial fertilizers, but it will enhance the value of such fertilizers.

Dr. D. S. MacKenzie, Jr., of Havre, Mont., a well known physician and surgeon, is president of the Multi-Mineral Products Corp. Dr. MacKenzie has a keen interest in the future of Montana and from a medical point of view recognizes the necessity of a sound, nutritious growth in plant life. He states that a farmer should, as a first step, have his soils analyzed by Dr. Van Derlinden and his staff, with laboratory in Seattle.

A contract for the mining, quarrying, and crushing of the minerals has been awarded to the O'Neil Construction Co. of Havre, Mont.

General offices of Multi-Mineral Products Corp. are located at 314 Treasure State Building, Billings, Mont., with branch offices at Havre and Red Lodge. Production plants are located at Red Lodge and Cody, Wyo. The company invites inquiries.



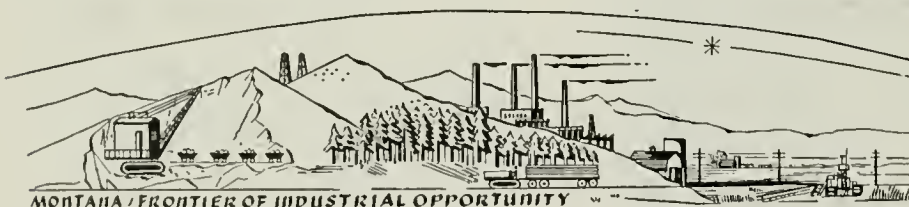
Part of Multi-Mineral Products Corp. plant facilities and loading docks at Red Lodge

With the Planning Board . . .

Governor Nutter appointed A. G. Westwood, Jr., Lodge Grass cattle rancher and wheat farmer, to the State Water Conservation Board which also serves as the State Planning Board. Westwood succeeds D. P. Fabrick, who resigned in January. Fabrick, except for four years, had been a member of the Water Board since its establishment in 1934, and chairman of the Planning Board since its reactivation in 1955.

Henry J. Sawtell of Miles City was named chairman of the Planning Board.

Dr. H. K. Newburn, president of Montana State University, was appointed to the Advisory Council. Council members represent their local areas and recommend action to the Board.



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